



## THE SECRET OF MAN'S BEING



Rev. Jirair Sogomian

TEXT: Ephesians 2:10

"We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do those good deeds which God planned for us to do." (Phillips)

Dostoievsky has once said that "the secret of man's being is not only to live but to have something to live for."

Man is the only animal who is aware that he is alive and conscious and someday he must die. In other words, man is the only animal who must have a reason for being. Life, for him, must have a reason, a purpose bigger than life to be worthwhile.

Modern man, however, is characterized by a chronic emptiness. He seems to have lost that purpose - which is bigger than life - and which makes life worth living. To live for nothing is depriving life of its original purpose - another form of suicide!

I believe that the mission of the church in our time is to help man to recover that reason for being - to know what life is all about. I also believe that the gospel and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ can give people a new reason for being - a fullness of life.

Too often we have failed to understand as Christians and as the Church the nature of our mission, and the real need of man. "We have tried to fill the emptiness with food and to cover spiritual impoverishment with clothes." Bishop Leslie Newbigen once commented: "All of the churches are moved by and concerned with the fact that the masses of India have no bread. But we are little concerned that these same masses do not have the bread

of life." Yet, this emptiness of man can only be filled with the bread of life.

According to the Apostle Paul, God created us in Jesus Christ so that we give ourselves to do the good deeds which God planned for us to do. Life, in other words, is for giving away. It is like manna in the wilderness. When it is hoarded it decays, it disintegrates. This seems to be a radical idea that shocks people in spite of the fact that Jesus made it plain when He said: "Whosoever would save his life shall lose it, but whosoever would lose his life for my sake and the gospel's shall save it."

We often tend to think of life as a gift, a personal possession to be held and hoarded as an end in itself. The result of this type of thinking is invariably stagnation, isolation, and death. But if we want to live life fully, we must learn to give it away. This is our mission.

Yet too often we have given to this assertion a very narrow interpretation. We have interpreted it as giving away money. But life is more than money. It is also time, talent, imagination. The impersonal giving of money, writing of a check is a dehumanized concept of mission. We have to learn to give of ourselves in order to recover that lost dimension of life, in order to fill the increasing emptiness within us.

There are many ways of doing this. One such example us in an article published in Stewardship '71 by Cal Stapleton. In his introduction he says that we never have time to do much for anybody else because we never have time technology as a means for freeing man for mission. "We spend our reflective moments, if we have time for them, questioning the efficacy of technology at the very least, instead of contemplating its possibilities for good. Time saved by technology has been used, by our industrial society, to increase productivity. Isn't it about time we take time to check on how we use time saved by time-saving new machines?"

One such example he gives is the automobile. He asks: "Can the wicked internal-combustion engine save time?" And then he gives the following example. "A couple we know rents a summer place one hundred miles north of the city in the foothills of the Catskills. They find that because of a new highway, a new parkway, and a new thruway, it takes half the time it used to reach their house. They save two hours, twice a weekend. This gives them four hours more away from the place they earn their money or four more hours to use as they like.

#### FOUR-GENERATION LINE OF AMAA SUPPORTERS

Mrs. H. Morrison Hancock (Angele Bedrossian), daughter of the late Reverend Setrak Adourian of our Evangelical Union, is a very generous and prayerful supporter of the Armenian Missionary Association of America. She sponsors elementary and high school children, supports needy children in the Istanbul Youth Home, and contributes to Haigazian College. She is able to donate large sums annually because of her ability to budget her income carefully. She is the second of a four-generation line of AMAA supporters. Her granddaughter, Trinda Lee Bedrossian, when still a student in College in California undertook the sponsorship of an elementary pupil. Incidentally, Trinda has a distinguished record in College. She has an M. A. in Geology and her article on "Fossils" was featured in the "California Geology" magazine. Mrs. Hancock's son, Dr. E. Howard Bedrossian, is also a patron of the AMAA. He joined our Fiftieth Anniversary Campaign with a generous contribution. We are delighted to have a man of Dr. Bedrossian's talent and ability on our side.

Dr. Bedrossian belongs to the category of highly talented persons who must be goaded into permitting that they be presented to the public. He is a quiet worker, intensely involved with his profession. He is a distinguished ophthalmologist and author of sixteen major articles in Medical Journals and of three books, all in ophthalmology. The profession appears to run in the family, for his father, the late Dr. Edward Hagop Bedrossian was a healer of eyes and his brother, Robert Haig holds a similar title. A sister, Doris Lydia, is married to Ophthalmologist Dr. Bobb.



Dr. E. Howard Bedrossian

Born in Philadelphia on February 3, 1921, Dr. Bedrossian graduated from Upper Darby High School in 1938, from Haverford College in 1942 with a Bachelor of Science degree, and obtained his M. D. from Temple University Medical School in 1945. He pursued higher work at the School of Aviation Medicine from where he obtained a diploma in 1947, after having interned at the Episcopal Hospital in Philadelphia. In 1949, he earned a diploma in Ophthalmology from the Graduate School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania and in 1954 a Master of Medical Science in Ophthalmology from the same university.

Dr. Bedrossian is ever learning by following courses of study and by writing.

Commencing as resident at the Graduate Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in 1949, he rose to

become Assistant Instructor of Ophthalmology in the same school in 1953, Associate in Ophthalmology in 1954, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology in 1955 and Associate Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology in 1969.

To this scholarly record he has added distinguished hospital staff appointments. He is Assistant Surgeon at the Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia, one of the most famous hospitals for eye therapy. He is also Associate Ophthalmologist at the Graduate Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, and Director of the Department of Ophthalmology at the Delaware Memorial Hospital in Drexel Hill as well as of Riddle Memorial Hospital in Media. His techniques in surgery are highly commended. When the American Academy of Ophthalmology meets in Philadelphia, Howard has been asked to demonstrate his operation technique on closed circuit Television, which is broadcast to the Academy Members in session in town, as he performs the operation at Wills Eye Hospital.

Dr. Bedrossian is a busy man. His practice hours are packed full of patients, and his spare time is taken up with the membership he holds in five major medical societies. Married in 1944 to Rosetta Leona Buyanowski, the couple have three children - Trinda Lee, Edward Howard, and William Anthony. The last time the writer of this article visited his home, the doctor was away on a ski trip with his son. He has time even for that worthwhile fellowship and fun. It is an art to learn to have a full life. We believe that Dr. Bedrossian has found that secret.

We are happy, too, that Dr. Bedrossian has added another dimension to his many involvements by showing genuine interest in the Armenian Missionary Association of America as well. This is very much in the tradition of his beloved mother, Mrs. Angele Sirvart Hancock, nee Adourian, who has the Association very much in her heart,

We wish Dr. Bedrossian well and pray that he may find deep satisfaction in all his endeavors.

(Continued from Page 1, Column 2)

"He is working on a novel and she paints. They are both volunteers at a child care center near their summer place. He has organized a band there, good enough to be invited to play for all local fairs and the annual library festival. She is teaching painting to the orphans and on Labor Day weekend they give a show. Show sales have been good. Profits are used to buy supplies, but each child artist keeps a percentage.

"What do we do with the time new roads and faster cars save us (if we survive them)? Have we found a mission to take advantage of this gift of time? Or do we continue as before?"

That which was not possible thirty or twenty years ago, is possible today. Technology has changed our way of life. It can also change our concept and approach to missions, and it must. "It is never enough to be my brother's keeper, as if my brother were an animal; I must be my brother's brother." For, in the long run, life is measured by our willingness to give ourselves up in love for another.

#### NEEDS IN AMAA OFFICE

The A.M.A.A. office has some important needs for equipment. Any and all help provided for the purchase of these needs is most welcome. May we hear from friends of the A.M.A.A.?

ITEM NEEDED	COST	ANSWERED FOR BY
Vacuum Cleaner	\$ 79	Mr. & Mrs. Hrant Tashjian
Copying Machine	1000	
IBM Typewriter	520	Dr. & Mrs. Rendel Levonian
Coffee Table	35	Dr. & Mrs. P. Ketenjian
Small Folding Table	30	Mrs. K. A. Pridjian
Folding and Inserting Machine	1600	
Scriptomatic Addressing Machine	3000	
High Speed Mimeo Machine	906	
50 Two-inch Snapback Binders	150	Mr. & Mrs. Chas. DeMirjian
Auto-Typist	800	
Filing Cabinet	50	Mrs. K. H. Movsesyan
Electric Adding Machine	95	Mr. & Mrs. Edward Peters
Filing Cabinet (second)	75	Mr. & Mrs. Ardson Shegoian
Conference Table	350	Mr. & Mrs. Ardson Shegoian
Typist's Chair	75	Mr. & Mrs. Ardson Shegoian
Typist's Chair (second)	75	
Coffee Maker	25	Mr. & Mrs. George Berberian
Wheeled Serving Cart	50	
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Hot Plate	25	
Work Table	25	

Trusting in God, and for His sake, I would like to enter into partnership of service with the A.M.A.A.

Enclosed please find my check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Use the gift for (state purpose) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Please make checks payable to the Armenian Missionary Association of America, and mail to A.M.A.A., 156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10010.

Your contribution is tax deductible.

We want to remind our supporters regularly of these needs until we have all of the items answered for. It's your MOVE next.

Please make checks payable to the Armenian Missionary Association of America, and mail to A.M.A.A., 156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10010. Your contribution is tax deductible.

#### LIST OF AVAILABLE BOOKS

(Legend: pb = paperbound; hc = hard cover; \* = In Armenian)

#### BOOK NO.

4a	ARPEE, Leon. A Century of Armenian Protestantism	(pb)	.50
6	BABOIAN, Rose. The Art of Armenian Cooking	(hc)	6.95
13	*BIBLE. N. T. #247, 5 x 3-1/2, small print (Leather)	(hc)	4.00
15	*BIBLE. N. T. #M0253, 5 x 7, large print	(hc)	2.50
16	*BIBLE. O. T. & N. T. 5 x 7, small print	(hc)	5.00
17	*BIBLE. O. T. & N. T. #M50X, 7-1/2 x 5-1/4 Large print	(hc)	5.00
18	CALIAN, Carnegie S. Grace, Guts, and Goods	(hc)	4.00
20	GOERGIZIAN, Rev. A. A. *Bavghikian-Tondragetzneroo Sharjoumu Hyeyotz Arakelagan Yegeghetzvo Mech	(hc)	5.00
24	HARTUNIAN, Rev. A. H. Neither To Laugh Nor To Weep	(hc)	5.00
25	HASSESSIAN, Rev. Herald A. G. *Aghantner Kristoneagan Jushmardoutyan Brismagen	(pb)	3.75
31	KRIKORIAN, Rev. M. P. The Adjective of Antioch	(hc)	2.95
35	SACRED MUSIC CHORALE record, Mono		3.95
36	SACRED MUSIC CHORALE record, Stereo	(hc)	10.00
37	SAPRICHIAN, Altoon and Sarra. *Mangagan Meghetiner		

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PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ARMENIAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.  
156 Fifth Avenue (Room 703), New York, N.Y. 10010

Miss Helen Barsumian was on an extended trip to Asia and the Near East on the occasion of her furlough. She sent mimeographed letters of her movements regularly, and we in the A. M. A. A. office were delighted to have the "lively" letters. In the last but one of these letters she reported about one of the highlights of her stay in Beirut--a visit to Ainjar! She writes:

"Ainjar, about an hour and a half from Beirut, was settled about 20 years ago with the refugees from the Musa Dagh area--aided by dedicated Swiss missionaries headed by Sister Hedwig. I have visited with them on each of my trips. Some of you know them. They speak good Armenian and have done an outstanding job. Sister Hedwig is retiring this year. The minister at Ainjar took me to her office. She was busy writing out the individual cards with the pictures of the youngsters and identifying data to be distributed among those of us who participate in the Armenian Missionary Association of America's Child Education Program. I like to call it the 'child adoption' program. Many of you take active part in this but others know nothing of it. Let me describe a bit of what I saw that morning.

"A young boy was seated near Sister Hedwig in her tiny office. His head was down and his eyes were brimming with tears. Being a vice-principal, I jumped to the conclusion that he had misbehaved in class and had been sent to the office. He was asked to stand outside in order to give me a place to sit. Of course I had to inquire about him. Sister Hedwig explained that his parents were quarrelling and apparently splitting up and he had just been left there! Ainjar has boarding facilities for orphaned children and youngsters from broken homes needing care. This 11 year old captivated me immediately. I just couldn't help it. He was struggling so hard not to cry. His big blue eyes (remember the Crusaders came through here) were so appealing. I 'adopted' him educationally on the spot.

"The school at Ainjar is filled with youngsters with heavier loads to carry than his. I was wondering if it might not be stimulating for all of us to 'adopt' Ainjar! Would you be interested in joining with me in writing to the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), 156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10010, Attention: Rev. G. H. Choupourian, requesting the privilege of educationally 'adopting' an Armenian boy or girl who needs our help living in Ainjar? If you want to wish yourselves a Happier New Year, I can assure you that becoming an 'instant' parent in the time it takes to write a check for forty dollars will give you untold-for happiness. Try it! Ask for a needy-eyed Ainjar boy or girl and treat yourself to the best of presents!"

We in the A. M. A. A. office will be glad to hear from many of you.



Silva Kadian  
of Anjar School

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Enclosed please find \$ \_\_\_\_\_ as deposit,  
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for the Armenian Heritage Tour departing New York  
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Make check payable to ARMENIAN MISSIONARY  
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HAIGAZIAN COLLEGE OF BEIRUT ACQUIRES MUGAR  
MEMORIAL BUILDING

The ARMENIAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA is pleased to announce the addition of a spacious building to the existing campus of Haigazian College in Beirut, Lebanon--the only degree-giving Armenian institution of higher learning outside Soviet Armenia. The large building with a spacious garden around it, was once the headquarters of the Iraq Petroleum Company. It has three floors, each floor containing approximately 450 square meters. "The new building," writes Dr. John J. Markarian, the president of Haigazian College, "has turned out to be perfectly suited to our purposes. It is very well constructed and is in good condition.... It is a large area but it will be possible to expand our activities and use every bit of it."

The College started in small "Webb House" in 1955 with 43 students and a faculty of 10. In 1960 a 6-story building was added to accommodate the increased student body of 250. With the present student body of 553 and a faculty of 53, the College facilities were crammed and

(Continued on Page 6, Column 1)

Between March 21 and April 30, I was privileged to visit Turkey, Lebanon, Cyprus, Iran, Europe. It is dangerous to make any general statements about the educational and religious work that is going on in these parts with some assistance from your Association--the Armenian Missionary Association of America, Inc. (A. M. A. A.). The needs and problems in Turkey are far different from those in Lebanon and those in Lebanon far different to those in Iran.

Needs for the physical aspects of the work continue everywhere. In Turkey, better buildings to replace the existing dilapidated ones are a must, and funds to meet the budget of the day school and the Istanbul Youth Home are essential if adequate food and staff are to be provided.

In Lebanon, contrary to some erroneous information, poverty is still a problem though the physical looks of school and church plants have taken a dramatic change to the better. Permit me to quote one educational leader:

"Unfortunately, the parents of our pupils are poor. Many have come from Syria. Their savings are totally exhausted and today they are in need of their daily bread. This is because they find it difficult to obtain work permits from the government. Here we are, the school year is ending, and many students have not been able to pay towards their schooling even a dollar. To send them away is contrary to our conscience. To keep them in school is a heavy blow to our budget."

Contrary to more hopeful statements to the effect that there is no poverty in Iran, our observation of certain sectors of Armenian life proved beyond the shadow of a doubt that there is serious poverty, and, an extremely low standard of living exists among thousands of Armenians.

Therefore, those of us who have been privileged to obtain greater resources in this life must continue to make gigantic efforts to lift the level of Armenians in all the areas where they need improvement, remembering that "no man is an island" and ultimately the bread we cast upon the waters returns unto us "manyfold."

And yet, I feel a tremendous burden. The burden is expressed in my own mind with the question: "Is there nothing we can do to enable the local communities, wherever they may be, to take on the responsibilities of raising their own educational, cultural, and specially spiritual level themselves?"

Stimulated by this question, I have tried to locate the real basic problem of those communities and to find a basic solution. To that end I want to make a suggestion and an appeal.

I am tempted to be categorical at this point. It is my strong personal conviction, supported by a dozen intellectuals who have made visits to these areas, that the problem is one of the lack of committed, dedicated, inspiring, earth-shaking local leadership. If we could provide capable, well-trained, personable leaders for Syria, Turkey, Greece, and Iran for certain specific types of work we could change the spirit (and the atmosphere and spirit counts greatly) inside a decade.



Rev. G. H. Choupourian

The Executive Secretary Pleads  
for Leadership Aid

My appeal therefore is to find twelve persons who would be willing to underwrite the total education of twelve specially chosen persons that would meet the strict requirements we would set for qualification. The sponsors should be willing to undertake the schooling of High School graduates, or those holding B. A. degrees, until such time as they have been adequately trained. They would then return to their local communities to provide leadership.

The leadership training of the twelve should be as follows:

NUMBER	PLACE	SPECIALTY
2	Turkey	Social Workers
1	Turkey	Minister
1	Syria	Social Worker
1	Syria	Minister
2	Lebanon	Social Workers
2	Iran	Social Workers
2	Iran	Ministers
1	Greece	Minister

The way to invest for the future is to plan for it. You can, by sacrificing some of your earnings, make a great investment in the improvement of our people in the Diaspora. It is the kind of investment that would receive the future gratitude of all Armenians and the immediate approval of our Father in Heaven.

The time to act is now. The A. M. A. A. would undertake the matter of finding the right kind of persons to be trained. As Edwin Markham remarks, in the following verse, making the man is important:

"We are all blind until we see that in the human plan  
Nothing is worth the making if it doesn't  
make the man.  
Why build these cities glorious if man  
unbuilded goes?  
In vain we build the work, unless the  
builder also grows."

G. H. Choupourian  
Executive Secretary

(Continued from Page 4, Column 2)

the Board of Managers were looking for the occurrence of a miracle to redeem the situation.

The MIRACLE did occur when Mr. Stephen P. Mugar pledged \$250,000.00 and paid a major portion of it towards the purchase of the I. P. C. building. With the assistance of Messrs. Alex Manoogian, the life-time president of the Armenian General Benevolent Union, and Edward Mardigian, the president of the AGBU Central Committee in the United States who pledged \$75,000.00 and \$25,000.00 respectively, and with a provision of \$65,000.00 from the Trustees of Haigazian College in the United States, the Armenian Missionary Association of America felt secure to purchase the building at a cost of \$440,000.00. The purchase was consummated on December 11, 1971--



*Mugar Building*



*Science Building*

a date to be recorded as a proud achievement period in the progress of the College.

In appreciation of the benevolent gesture and in order to honor Mr. Stephen P. Mugar, the Haigazian College, with the approval of the Board of Trustees and the AMAA have named the new addition "The Mugar Memorial Building" in memory of Sarkis and Vosgitel Mugar, parents of the benefactor.

The AMAA, the Board of Trustees in the States and the Board of Managers in Beirut are truly grateful to Mr. Mugar, who, after making large contributions to many educational institutions in the United States running into millions of dollars, has decided to do his best for Armenian educational causes. Born in Armenia on March 5, 1901, Mr. Mugar came to the United States in 1906, graduated from the High School of Commerce in Boston in 1919 and attended evening courses at Bentley's School of Accounting and Finance between 1919-1922. He is the founder and honorary chairman of the Board of Star Market Company and is also a private investor. He is Director of 10 major banks and industrial companies, is a Trustee in four colleges and universities--including Boston and Northeastern Universities--and holds honorary degrees from Suffolk University, Northeastern University, St. Anselm College, and Boston College--all earned between 1960 and 1966. He also holds awards from five different sources, such as the "Democracy in Action" award from President Lyndon B. Johnson, the medal for Distinguished Service to Higher Education from Brandeis University and the Americanism Medal from the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution among others.

The HAIGAZIAN COLLEGE was in need of PARENTAL care and has found such a PARENT in Stephen P. Mugar.

Dr. G. H. Chopourian,  
Executive Secretary,  
Armenian Missionary Association of  
America, Inc.

January 29, 1972

## ARMENIAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION

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